

SWEARS HE WAS PAID \$50 TO COLLECT A FORTUNE

Surrogate Gets Affidavit of "Dummy" Charging That Frenzied Financier Edwin Elliott Trautwein Used Estates Liquidating Co. to Swindle the Real Heirs.

Edwin Elliott Trautwein, often under investigation by the police and other investigators for peculiar financial operations on a large scale, is charged in an affidavit filed in the Surrogate's office with using the Estates Liquidation Company, a concern controlled by him, to swindle. He is charged with bribing fictitious heirs to claim estates and to turn over the proceeds to himself.

Eighteen estates handled by the Estates Liquidation Company are under investigation. In one of them at least the dummy heir has confessed that he took \$50 from Trautwein for claiming \$2,159,100 left by John Crowley, to whom the claimant was not related and of whom he had never heard.

Janitors and porters of the building at No. 302 Broadway, where the concern has maintained offices for many months, have been busy for two days moving the furniture of the corporation into the street under a dispensed order. Three different agencies are trying to learn from the departing clerks something about Trautwein's business methods.

BRITISH CONSUL STARTED AN INVESTIGATION.

The British Consul, it was learned today, had begun an inquiry some time ago to determine what had happened to the estate left by James Haggerty, of Liverpool, who had died in this city, apparently without heirs. At the request of two real heirs in Liverpool Trautwein's concern had been interested in the administration of the estate. Another estate which interested English heirs was that of Ellen Dunn.

The second branch of the triangular investigation was begun by the National Surety Company, which had given bonds at the solicitation of the Estates Liquidation Corporation to insure the proper administration of estates by the company. The surety company's legal department is thus interested in the following estates: Daniel Fitzhugh Jr., William J. Jenkins, John Bigelow, Hannah Hourigan, John Crowley, Mary McDonald, Benjamin Kershaw, James Haggerty, Morris B. Reynolds, Christian C. Wendell, Margaret Lowrey, Ellen Dunn, Annie McGowan, Katherine Hoffman, Jennie Nelson, James Nelson, Robert Riddle and Eric Wynoff.

Most of the above estates, if not all, were first in the hands of the Public Administrator, as the decedents had met sudden or accidental deaths and left no known next of kin.

The third stem of the investigation, and that which culminated in the filing of Kettner's affidavit today has been in charge of George Smythe, representing the real heirs to the Crowley estate and his attorney, L. Newton Williams. This investigation was started long before the others. After an affidavit admitting his fake heirship, Kettner asked that the letters of administration fraudulently granted to him be revoked. Kettner's affidavit follows:

TOLD HOW HE COULD EARN \$50 EASILY.

"In or about the month of August or September, 1912, I was requested by one John Harrison, residing at an unknown address, to call upon Mr. Edwin Trautwein, at his office, No. 302 Broadway, New York City, and he would give me an opportunity of making \$50.

"Mr. Trautwein asked me to sign an affidavit petition and the verification of the same, dated Sept. 17, 1912, and also sign and swear to the oath of office as administrator, which form, a part of the petition, and also the bond, as administrator of the estate of John Crowley, deceased, and said that Harrison would make it all right with me if I would sign the same.

"I signed the papers just as he prepared them, and shortly thereafter a check was shown me drawn by the Empire Industrial Savings Bank on some

John Crowley, the decedent. They claim to be the only next of kin and brand as false the claim that there is a cousin, 'Jeremiah Crowley,' whom Kettner admits he impersonated.

Capt. J. M. Hankin of No. 231 Greene avenue, Brooklyn, for a brief time secretary of the Estates Liquidation Company, declared to-day that his connection with the company had been purely honorary and that he had had no idea that the transactions were not according to law until Aug. 24th of this year.

"I had been introduced to a man in the office as Crowley," he said, "and had seen him there frequently. I always knew him as Crowley. One day after I had left the company I met this man in Brooklyn and he said he wanted to see me. I told him to come to my house, but he called at my home when I was not there. I found a note signed 'Crowley' and underneath 'James R. Kettner.' I thought maybe it meant Kettner was an attorney for Crowley in the will transaction.

"Next day Crowley, who was really Kettner, came to my house and made a clean breast of the whole affair and told the story now repeated in his affidavit. When Attorney Smythe asked me to locate Kettner for him I did so, and I was present when Kettner signed his affidavit.

BOOKS SHOWED DEFICIT IN FEW MONTHS.

"When I went to the Estates Liquidation Company, I started, as an expert accountant, to bring the bookkeeping affairs of the company into order, but Trautwein would not permit that. I was hardly more than a rubber stamp. I never handled any cash; sometimes the entries Trautwein gave me were a month old. In the few months I was with the corporation, the books, kept according to the figures Trautwein gave me, showed that the corporation had received \$3,024.71 and that he had paid out \$12,907.25, showing a deficit of \$9,882.54. That was from March to December, 1912.

"Once I spoke to him about this alleged bookkeeping and he said for me to go to hell; that it meant nothing to me, as long as he got money to keep the office going. Very little money was kept in the corporation's bank account; most of it was deposited to Trautwein's personal account.

"As secretary of the corporation, I ordered all the 'investments' of the corporation to make written reports to me, but Trautwein overruled that and ordered the men to report in person to him.

Nor is this Trautwein's first connection with frenzied financial dealings. On Oct. 26, 1890, Detective Doyle and Clarke of the Jersey City Detective Bureau arrested 'Edward Trautwein' in the Jersey City office of Barrett & Co., No. 75 Montgomery street. It was charged that this contracting firm was being induced to furnish supplies to men employed in quarries in New York, and that many victims had lost from \$150 to \$300.

On Jan. 5, 1905, while living under the name of 'E. Elliott Trautwein' at No. 31 West Twenty-seventh street, Market Street, he was held in Jefferson Market Court on a charge of stealing two promissory notes, each of the face value of

\$5,000, from Gustavus F. Macrae. He denounced his arrest as 'an outrage.' The matter was settled out of court and Trautwein was discharged.

On June 19, 1905, Trautwein was arrested by Detective McConnell on the charge of stealing \$3,000 worth of promissory notes from Frank E. Burns, head of a novelty company in Newark, N. J.

When Charles Barry and John Goudalash were on trial, on May 15, 1906, before Magistrate Moss, on the charge of stealing \$108,000 in notes from the defunct firm of Sherman & Co., cutlery merchants of Keppert, N. J., Goudalash became a voluntary witness and swore to the court that a worthless sight draft, drawn on E. Elliott Trautwein, had been sent to Sherman & Co. as part payment for the alleged stolen notes.

TOLD OF NOTE SWINDLERS IN WALL STREET.

On June 20, 1908, it was announced in the office of the District Attorney that Trautwein had revealed to the prosecuting attorney evidence of the existence of a ring of note swindlers who had been operating in Wall street. Trautwein had been arrested at his home in Woodmere, L. I., on the charge of stealing \$90,000 in notes issued by the Hopper-Morgan Company of Watertown, N. Y. The World in October, 1908, found Trautwein doing business in a luxurious office at No. 301 West Twenty-seventh street as a broker in commercial paper. His business at that time baffled even expert investigators. He was procuring commercial paper from substantial business houses and paying them 9 per cent. a year on its face value, 'simply for the privilege of holding their notes.' He was said to be doing a business of several million dollars a week.

The strange part of the transaction was that Trautwein pledged himself not to put the paper to any use. Trautwein explained that in some cases he got five per cent. for the use of these notes as 'accommodation paper,' but that he never borrowed money on them. No one seemed able to tell how he could make any money at that scheme and he was branded as a 'brand new type of a philanthropist.'

The day following 'The World's' exposure, Trautwein went out of that business, announcing that 'a mistake had been made,' and that he was simply a money lender.

On Aug. 15, 1912, Trautwein, then living in Freeport, L. I., but maintaining his offices at No. 302 Broadway, got into the limelight in a different way, as a hero who won Sheriff Harburger's commendation. An automobile driven by William Blair, a machinist, of No. 300 Eighth avenue, knocked down a man on the Grand Boulevard and continued its flight. Trautwein, in another car, pursued the fugitive and brought about his arrest. Trautwein at that time was a special deputy sheriff and Sheriff Harburger, at a dinner two nights later, had special praise for his deputy.

Austrian Emperor Receives Ambassador Penfield.

VIENNA, Austria, Sept. 18.—Emperor Francis Joseph today received in audience the new United States Ambassador, Frederick Cortland Penfield of New York, who presented his credentials and the letters of recall of Richard C. Kerens of St. Louis, the retired Ambassador.

BISHOP WHO WARNED LINCOLN OF ASSASSIN IS EXPECTED TO DIE

Relatives Called to Bedside of Rev. Thomas Bowman, Venerable Methodist.

Bishop Thomas Bowman, senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the man who vainly warned President Lincoln that he was in danger of assassination, is dying at the home of his son-in-law, R. Durbin Caldwell, president of the Wells-Fargo Express Co., at No. 31 High street, Orange, N. J.

Bishop Bowman, who passed his ninety-sixth birthday on July 15th, has been ill for a month and because of his advanced age, little hope is felt for his recovery. His sons and daughters have been summoned to his bedside. They are, besides Mrs. Caldwell, with whom he has made his home for a number of years, Theodore G. Bowman of Los Angeles, Thomas M. Bowman and Charles G. Bowman of St. Louis, Samuel B. Bowman of Denver, Reuelius B. Bowman of Chattanooga and Mrs. Mary C. Smith of Baltimore.

Bishop Bowman was born at Berwick, Pa., in 1817. He was educated at Dickinson College and was ordained at the Baltimore Conference in 1839. He served for some time as president of Dickinson Seminary. Dr. Bowman was created a bishop in May, 1872, and retained that office until his retirement in 1898. For more than forty years before his retirement he had told his friends he was too busy with his church work ever to take a vacation. As bishop he had toured the world many times, attending conferences in Europe, India, China, Japan and Mexico.

Dr. Bowman was Assistant Chaplain of the United States Senate during the civil war and on several occasions saw John Wilkes Booth acting suspiciously about the Capitol when President Lincoln was there on official business. So strongly were his suspicions aroused that Dr. Bowman warned Lincoln.

MEXICAN SADDLES.

(From a Consular Report.)

The making of saddles, while in the aggregate an important local Mexican industry, is purely a home affair, the artisans for the most part working independently in their own homes and often pressing the entire family into service. The manager of the largest wholesale and retail dealers in saddles in Durango says that all the saddles which they handle are made locally by hand and that his firm alone keeps about ten men so employed. He estimates that more than 100 families in that city are similarly employed.

Many of the hand-made saddles are handsomely carved and most creditable

in appearance, although the leather as a rule is far inferior to that used in American saddles. It is the practice of retailers here to furnish the trees, leather and fittings of all kinds to the workmen and to pay them for their actual labor. The labor is the cheapest item entering into saddle construction, many entire families being satisfied with a wage of 50 cents to \$1 American currency a day. The saddle trees used for the better grades of saddles are imported from the State of Colima, the cheaper grade saddles using a tree of local make.

THE WONDERFUL "OIL SPOT."

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

A freak of nature never fully described is the wonderful "oil spot," situated about ten miles south of Sabine Pass, into which flows the Sabine River to the Gulf of Mexico. The river forms the boundary between the States of

Louisiana and Texas. The "oil spot" extends two miles along shore and seaward about three-quarters of a mile. A storm from the northeast, by way of east to southeast, has a rake of from 300 to 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico into this mystic haven.

During a gale this spot is wonderfully defined. Looking seaward the scene is grand. An army of towering foam marks the abrupt dissipation of the rushing seas as they thunder toward the shore. This occurs in about three fathoms, or eighteen feet of water, from which the storm-driven craft, creaking and straining in every timber, emerges and suddenly finds herself reposing like a child rocked in its mother's arms, hemmed in by a wall of wrath, where the weary mariner can be lulled to rest by the roar of the winds. The place is termed the "oil spot," not from any known analysis of its nature, but simply from its conditions—it has no troubled water.

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I am getting ready to open Philadelphia, which city I intend to have a duplicate of Boston, New York and other cities where Mitchell holds sway. I am taking in hundreds of pieces of woollens today, and my store is overstocked. The whole secret of my business is the turning over of woollens. There are no ends left when I clean up at the close of the season.

From now on my price will be suit or overcoat to order \$15.50, neither lower nor higher, but at various times during the year I expect to run what I shall class "clean up on ends" sales, and this will be the start. In the number of stores that I carry it is necessary to sample out pieces, and when we come to the end of the piece it is shipped back to the N. Y. store.

Today I show an accumulation of Standish Worsteds, Rock Overcoatings, Worombo Coatings, fine Scotches, some of the best goods I ever carried. There is enough for one or two suits or overcoats in the piece, and for the next three days I will run a cleaning out ends sale. These goods will be cut on Macdonald's patterns, made in my daylight shops upstairs, and each garment will bear the union label. My price will be suit or overcoat to order



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